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ABSTRACT

This document is a report on the state of applied arts and technology colleges in Ontario, Canada. It includes a message from the Chair of the Association as well as the Chair of the Committee of Presidents, and a report from the Executive Director of the Association. In the advocacy and communications arena, chief among the successes for the year was the development of a plan that outlines the direction the colleges need to go in order to remain vital to the economic and social development of Ontario. The colleges also developed a variety of initiatives aimed at communications with its constituents to garner support and reinforce the goals of the colleges on various activities and governmental actions. In terms of research and policy, important accomplishments for the year include the approval of a paper recommending a new charter, with broader authority and accountability, for the colleges, and a task force report that demonstrates the success of the colleges in providing access and high quality programs. Other highlights include the announcement of a significant super-fund project that represents a major investment in the colleges, and that the colleges performed well on the Key Performance Indicators project, designed to measure success and accountability. (LD)

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Annual Report 2000

Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario

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Message from the Chair of ACAATO

As chair of ACAATO, I am pleased to present this seventh annual report which summarizes the association's progress toward the system-wide objectives of Ontario's colleges of applied arts and technology.

The year covered in this report — 2000 — was one of great achievement. The association made great strides in its advocacy efforts to move forward with a new charter for colleges, thanks to the participation of college governors, administrators, students and other stakeholders and friends.

Susan Bloomfield
Chair of ACAATO

Ontario's colleges have garnered greater awareness in the media, by members of government, industry and the public of the high value placed on a college education and the crucial role the colleges play in the province's economy.

These achievements are not accomplished by any one person. They are the results of the collective efforts of many who work tirelessly to advance the goals of ACAATO.

The ACAATO Executive and I welcome the opportunity of working with governors and presidents from all of Ontario's 25 colleges of applied arts and technology to provide crucial strategic leadership in meeting the many needs of the future.

Susan Bloomfield
Chair
ACAATO

Message from the Chair of the Committee of Presidents

If there was ever a year to confirm that Ontario's colleges of applied arts and technology played a vital role in the development of the economic and social fabric of Ontario, this was it.

For years Ontario's colleges have been playing a leadership role in ensuring that Ontario met the challenges of the day by providing responsive and market driven programming. But this year marked the beginning of some remarkable changes for the system.

Dr. Howard Rundle
Chair
Committee of Presidents

These changes include legislation which gives those colleges that want it the flexibility to grow in ways not considered more than 30 years ago. For example, colleges can now begin to offer applied degrees, providing our students with a highly desirable and necessary credential in the increasingly complex work world.

We also showed that investing in colleges is a smart move, as seen by the hundreds of millions of dollars pumped into the system by the Ontario government as part of SuperBuild funding. This capital funding will help colleges to meet the demand for increased student spaces, and to do so with the state-of-the-art facilities demanded by the new economy.

Even with these remarkable achievements, guardians of the college system must continue to advocate for additional support to meet the challenges of the next few years. For example, another 30,000 students are expected to enter the system due to the double cohort in 2003-04 and the so-called echo baby boom.

We must continue to press for additional resources to meet the needs of our new students and the province.

As chair of the Committee of Presidents, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of all members ACAATO who provide crucial leadership in these areas, as well as to those who work toward these goals on a day-to-day basis.

Dr. Howard Rundle
Chair, Committee of Presidents

Report of the Executive Director

The Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (ACAATO) is the advocacy and marketing organization of Ontario's 25 colleges. Its mandate is to advance a strong college system for Ontario.

This accountability report to ACAATO members and partners focuses on progress that has been made in ACAATO's core functions of advocacy and communications, research and policy, and administration and operations.

As the media headlines show, and the KPI results released in 2000 confirm, colleges are contributing to the social and economic development of Ontario.

Joan Homer
Executive Director

During 2000, the association led the development of future provincial policy directions as colleges prepare for the 20 per cent growth period ahead. Advocacy focused on capital and operating funding and a new charter to permit colleges to become even more responsive to student, employer and community demand.

The association co-ordinated system proposals to increase student access and affordability and to enhance administrative efficiency to the Investing in Students Task Force. Colleges are again demonstrating their leadership of change and accountability in postsecondary education.

For the Ontario College Application Services (OCAS), 2000 was a year of renewal. Executive Director Greg Hughes and the leadership team have developed new application and information service levels and restored financial health to OCAS, now approved as a subsidiary corporation of ACAATO.

In its sixth year of operation, CON*NECT (Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training) continues to attract new training revenue to colleges and to profile college leadership in customized workplace education and training. CON*NECT was awarded one of the Ontario Jobs and Investment Board Prosperity projects to develop training needs assessments in several industries.

Looking Ahead

Increased college operating funding continues to be ACAATO's top priority into 2001. The current per student grant does not adequately meet the needs of new knowledge economy programs the Ontario workplace requires to be globally competitive. As well, the funding distribution mechanism requires revision to accommodate both access and quality to benefit students.

ACAATO will continue to advocate for the institutional flexibility that would give college members increased authority to manage local responsiveness. The status of government's relationship to the colleges will likely be determined in 2001.

Human resource planning to accommodate the college's anticipated 30 per cent retirement rate and 20 per cent enrolment increase will be necessary to address recruitment, retention, training and succession challenges. Other priorities include student financial aid, apprenticeship and nursing programs.

ACAATO's collective efforts in leadership development continue to advance a strong college system. Opportunities include the annual ACAATO conference, Leadership Development Institute, Governor Orientation Program, Board Chairs Workshop and Presidents Annual Planning Meeting.

Appreciation

This overview of ACAATO's progress through 2000 demonstrates the responsiveness of the association in meeting the needs of Ontario college members. Our appreciation is extended to all the college, government and partner colleagues who have contributed to the success of the colleges and their association.

Joan Homer
Executive Director

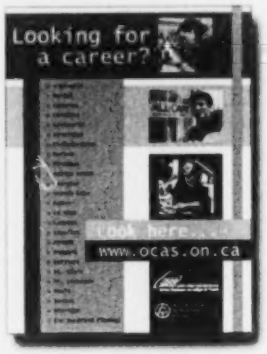
Advocacy and Communications

Ontario's colleges of applied arts and technology moved forward significantly on a number of advocacy fronts in 2000.

Chief among the many successes was work done to support the effort to devise a new charter for the college system.

A broad-based consultation effort led by board chairs across the province with the participation of college staff, students, community members, government officials and unions resulted in a paper that outlined the direction that Ontario's colleges need to take to remain a vital part of the economic and social development of the province.

The consultation process and ongoing advocacy efforts by members of ACAATO working in co-operation with government officials resulted in a significant step forward in the evolution of colleges. In December 2000, legislation was passed that gave colleges the right to grant applied degrees. This achievement will provide college graduates in certain programs with a professional credential that is highly valued in a variety of industries around the globe. Initially, eight programs per year, over three years, will take part in a pilot project. Other elements of the legislation will allow for the further development of colleges to meet the needs of the marketplace.



Government Relations

One of the primary advocacy and communications strategies approved by the General Assembly is to build support for the colleges within government. The association monitors government activity at all levels and in other sectors, and develops grassroots lobbying campaigns.

Advocacy efforts aimed at government also continued on a variety of fronts to support ACAATO initiatives, including changes to the SuperBuild fund, KPI funding formula, government funding for colleges and the Investing in Students Task Force. Working together with government officials, the association has ensured that key college messages are clearly communicated to the appropriate recipients in an effort to move forward on association goals and to build strong relationships.

Strategic Communications

A variety of communications strategies were developed for key ACAATO intiatives, including the Charter and Capacity project and applied degrees. These strategies identified a number of strategic initiatives that were supported broadly across the system by presidents, board chairs, members of the College Committee for Advancement and partners.

Supporting these initiatives is ongoing contact with the media, internal college communities, partners, friends of the colleges and the public to ensure that key messages are reinforced.

A dozen press releases were transmitted concerning the charter, SuperBuild, applied degrees, the ACAATO conference, Key Performance Indicators, Women in Technology Awards, OJIB/CON*NECT Demonstration Project, funding and tuition, nursing and the Investing in Students Task Force. The releases were picked up by numerous media outlets, ensuring that the colleges' point-of-view was well-represented on key issues.

Advertising in support of system messages continued in 2000, with the design of a new ad that appeared in Maclean's magazine and Sun Media publications (see inset, above). The ad campaign, prepared by Jeannine d'Entremont-Farrar and Karen Gallant of the Ontario College Application Service in co-operation with ACAATO, carries the message: *Looking for a career? Look here.*

For the second year in a row, ACAATO brokered an advertising opportunity with Sun Media. The pull-out, advertorial section allowed participating colleges to reach more than 600,000 readers across southern and central Ontario, highlighting programs and services.

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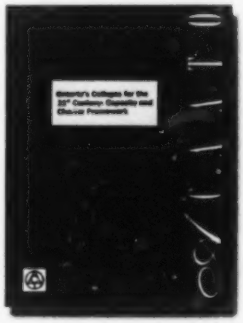
Advocacy objectives for 2001 include continued efforts towards achieving appropriate and stable funding levels for the colleges as they face a significant increase in enrolment, retirements and increased costs to support the needs of students and programming in an ever-changing marketplace.

Research and Policy

The Research and Policy Office supported two key initiatives for the college system in 2000: the development of a new college charter submission and supporting ACAATO's response to Investing in Students Task Force.

The paper *Ontario's Colleges for the 21st Century: Capacity and Charter Framework* was developed based on broad consultation at the local college board level and with key provincial stakeholders. The paper was approved by ACAATO's General Assembly and submitted to the government in May 2000. The charter paper recommended a new charter for the college system, increased board authority within a broad accountability framework and a commitment to government to progressive and adequate funding. Several research projects were undertaken by ACAATO's coordinating committees.



Ontario's Colleges: Leaders in Applied Learning, ACAATO's presentation to the Investing in Students Task Force, presented historical and current achievements of the colleges in providing access and high-quality programs to students. These achievements were demonstrated by highlights provided by the colleges in response to a short survey. ACAATO also submitted system-wide proposals and best practices to the task force.

Several research reports were produced by individual researchers and coordinating committees:

- *Measuring Graduation and Attrition in Ontario's Colleges*, March 2000, Arthur Donner Consultants;
- *Future Capacity Issues Resulting from the Double Cohort and Other Demographic Considerations*, prepared by KPMG for Administrative Services Coordinating Committee;
- *A Distributed Learning Network for Ontario's CAATs* prepared for IPCC; and
- *Association of CAAT Faculties Administrators: Position Paper Presented to the Investing in Students Task Force*, prepared by Educational Consulting Services Corp.

Ongoing research and analysis included the publication of the seventh annual Environmental Scan 2001.

Key highlights include:

- SuperBuild projects were announced in two phases in February ($660 million) and in May/June 2000 ($231 million). Twenty-three colleges and 17 universities received funding with significant investment from a multitude of partners in the private sector.
- Colleges continue to face a significant challenge in responding to the growing demand for career education with limited resources. For example: per student funding remained down from its 1990 rate of $5,775 in comparison with $3,474 in 1999.
- Colleges continue to demonstrate their success and accountability through the Key Performance Indicators Project with 90 per cent of recent college graduates employed within six months of graduation, 91 per cent of employers satisfied with the educational preparation of graduates, 83 per cent of students satisfied with their programs and 69 per cent of graduates satisfied with their education.

Two editions of *Research News* were distributed to the college community: Government Investment in Postsecondary Education and Key Themes in Education Review and Restructuring.

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Committees, Administration & Operations

ACAATO Executive

The ACAATO Executive develops the agenda, objectives and desired outcomes for the association. The committee consists of five board chairs and five presidents (Committee of Presidents Executive) from various regions.

The executive led the college charter exploration process through 1999, completing research, consultation and recommendations to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in June 2000. Key charter elements include progressive funding and institutional flexibility to increase responsiveness to labour market demand, as well as the introduction of applied degrees. A major focus of discussion has been an improved human resource management model to achieve the college mandate.

ACAATO Chair Susan Bloomfield (left), Dianne Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and COP Chair Howard Rundle at the fall meeting of the General Assembly.

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the board of directors of ACAATO, which is a voluntary, non-profit corporation. Board chairs and presidents from all 25 member colleges set the strategic direction for the association.

The focus of 2000 activity included consultation with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Dianne Cunningham, on funding and charter issues. The minister met frequently with college leaders to discuss the government's postsecondary access and accountability priorities.

Members of the Investing in Students Task Force also met with the General Assembly to review the access and administrative mandate and time frame of this initiative. College system proposals were subsequently developed.

Committee of Presidents

The presidents of Ontario's colleges meet at least six times each year to develop system policy and address common operational issues. Priorities for 2000 included capital and operating funding, the introduction of applied degrees, joint nursing programs, apprenticeship and system proposals for the Investing in Students Task Force. Regular meetings are held with the ministry and education and training partners.

Fanshawe College President Howard Rundle is serving his second term as chair of the Committee of Presidents.

Board Chairs

The annual workshop of board chairs from 25 colleges achieved its leadership objectives of orientation, priority-setting and networking.

Facilitator Pierre Giroux guided the exploration of the role of board chairs, college strategic challenges and board development strategies. The board chairs' collective priorities for 2000-01 include: funding and formula revision, charter implementation, enhancement of board autonomy and accountability, enrolment, partnerships and board development. Advocacy remains the primary objective of ACAATO activity.

CAAT Co-ordinating Committee

The 15-member CAAT Co-ordinating Committee is made up of two representatives of each of the five academic and administrative functions, and includes representatives from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), Ontario Council of Regents, the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) and ACAATO.

In 2000, the committee reviewed key system-wide issues such as a new college charter and related research, apprenticeship reform, apprenticeship entry requirements, student debt and the Investing in

Students Task Force. It also examined funding related issues, including operating grants, KPI funding distribution and apprenticeship per diem.

For 2001 the committee will focus on funding, the college charter and recommendations of the Investing in Students Task Force.

Administrative Services Co-ordinating Committee

The Administrative Services Co-ordinating Committee co-ordinates issues related to effective administration and support of college facilities and activities.

Priorities for 2000 included:

- undertaking a project on future college capacity issues;
- evaluating options related to common information systems; and
- considering the potential for system-wide pooled fund investing.

Among priorities for 2001 are support for facilities planning and utilization initiatives and continuing consultation regarding capacity and funding issues.

Co-ordinating Committee on Student Services (CCSS)

The CCSS provides leadership and consultation to the college system on all aspects relating to student services and student development, such as registration, admissions, financial aid, counselling, disability and health services, career and placement services, learning resource centres, athletics/recreation and student government liaison.

CCSS participates on a number of ACAATO and ministry committees, including the Ontario Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Standing Committee on Student Financial Assistance, OCAS Information Systems Coordinating Committee and the KPI Co-ordinating Committee.

For 2001, CCSS is committed to exploring and understanding emerging issues associated with student residences, student rights and responsibilities, student discipline and student government, as well as continuing to provide advocacy on key student success issues such as student financial aid.

Training and Development Co-ordinating Committee (T&DCC)

T&DCC co-ordinates issues relating to the enhancement of existing training services and to the colleges' commitment to develop new initiatives and markets.

Highlights for 2000 include:

- T&DCC representatives worked with the Heads of Apprenticeship and MTCU to complete a comprehensive report on Apprenticeship In-School Training Costs and Efficiencies. This report was submitted to the Investing in Students Task Force.
- Working with MTCU staff, T&DCC representatives participated in consultations and revisions regarding policy and regulations for the new Apprenticeship and Certification Act.
- Provided leadership in the Literacy and Basic Skills project funded by MTCU.

Instruction/Programs Co-ordinating Committee (IPCC)

Academic vice-presidents from each college serve as members on the IPCC to provide leadership on academic matters such as programming, methods of delivery and articulations with other postsecondary institutions.

In 2000, IPCC continued several strategic initiatives begun in 1999 to advance academic excellence and learner-centered education. It also provided input to MTCU on the double cohort, distributed learning, program standards, and approvals and academic credentialling

As well, IPCC:

- produced a paper on distributed learning with specific recommendations on accelerating system advancement;
- was awarded a grant from the Ontario Knowledge Network to develop a business case for an Ontario College Distributed Learning Network;
- produced a paper on academic credentials for Ontario college graduates identifying the appropriate credentials for CAAT grads in the new knowledge-based and global economy;
- co-sponsored the Learning College Project with CCHRD in leadership for the advancement of learning-centred education; and
- continued work on college-university transfer agreements through the College-University Consortium Council.

For 2001 IPCC will focus on advancing distributed learning implementation, enhancing college-university transfer opportunities, applied degree projects, learning-centred education initiatives and implementation of the collaborative BSc Nursing programs.

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Human Resources Co-ordinating Committee (HRCC)

HRCC identifies and responds to system-wide issues related to labour relations and collective bargaining, compensation, benefits, staffing, employment equity, organizational development and staff training. HRCC is represented on a number of provincial committees including those concerning joint insurance, collective bargaining, pension and employee relations.

In 2000, HRCC:

- provided a response to proposed changes to the CAAT Pension Plan and the Employment Standards Act;
- with ACAATO, developed a 10-year staffing forecast as a basis for the development of recruitment, retention, and training plans;
- provided input during the support staff contract negotiations;
- implemented the new Administrative Salary and Performance Management Plan; and
- provided a response to the Investing in Students Task Force.

In 2001 HRCC plans to :

- provide input to the Council of Regents before and during negotiation of the academic collective agreement;
- monitor and provide feedback to the Council of Regents on the implementation of the Administrative Salary and Performance Management Plan;
- support the establishment of a provincial management development program;
- develop a system approach to recruitment, retention and training plans in response to the 10-year staffing forecast; and
- provide leadership for a Labour Market Research project supported by Human Resource Development Canada.

College-University Consortium Council (CUCC)

The CUCC facilitates, promotes and co-ordinates joint education and training ventures that will aid in the transfer of students from sector to sector, facilitate the creation of joint programs between colleges and universities and further the development of a continuum of learning opportunities in Ontario's post-secondary system.

Highlights for 2000 include:

- research in support of the Ontario College-University Degree Completion Accord to identify areas of high affinity between the two sectors. The accord has resulted in the development of new agreements between colleges and universities; and
- upgrading the Ontario College-University Transfer Guide to provide information on articulation agreements between colleges and universities for students, faculty and staff.

Literacy and Basic Skills College Sector Committee

This sub-committee of the T&DCC promotes communication and conducts research to ensure that high-quality, relevant academic upgrading is available to the many Ontario adults who return to school each year to prepare for postsecondary education or to improve their job opportunities.

Among reports prepared in 2000 are those that:

- provided the statistical proof that preparatory graduates are highly successful in postsecondary programs; and
- resulted in the development of a number of strategies to improve retention.

School/College/Work Initiative

This initiative, which was formed in 1998 to provide Ontario students with clear pathways from secondary school to college programs and subsequently to employment, has been continued for an additional three years. The project, co-managed by members from the Committee of Presidents and the Council of Directors of Education, has funded 16 projects which partner colleges and secondary schools/boards and serve a variety of local and provincial needs. New projects funded in Fall 2000 demonstrate implementation of core expectations of secondary reform.

Leadership Development Institute (LDI) 2000

LDI offers a unique, system-wide leadership development opportunity, custom-made for today's rapidly changing learning environment.

Twenty-five LDI participants worked on three research projects, which will be highlighted at the 2001 ACAATO conference.

LDI is in its 19th year and features a program of learning and networking that adapts to system leadership needs.

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Niagara College hosts 2000 ACAATO Conference on charter

Three hundred and fifty delegates took part in the 2000 ACAATO Conference, which was held in Niagara Falls and hosted by Niagara College, focused on a new charter for the college system. Featured speakers included Dr. Jacquelyn Thayer Scott, President and Vice-chancellor of the University College of Cape Breton, John Wetmore, President and CEO of IBM Canada, Christopher Newton, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival and Ann Dowsett Johnston, Associate Managing Editor of *Maclean's* magazine.

The ACAATO Banquet and Premier's Awards ceremony celebrated outstanding alumni. Awards were presented to:

- David Connolly, Producer, Anita Mann Productions (Sheridan College);
- Kendra Gregson, Social Protection Consultant, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Mohawk College);
- Ted Hargreaves, Managing Partner, BDO Dunwoody LLP (Canadore College);
- Dr. Martin McNamara, Emergency Room Physician, Huronia District Hospital (Humber College); and
- Michael Ruscigno, Founder and President of InTELaTECH Inc. (Humber College).

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Cambrian College

Jim Drennan, Vice-chair
Georgian College

Jim Bethune
Mohawk College

Dan Longlade
Canadore College

Debra Cooper-Burger
Sir Sandford Fleming College

2000-2001 Committee of Presidents Executive*

Howard Rundle, Chair
Fanshawe College

Gisèle Chrétien
Collège Boréal

Robert Gordon
Humber College

Doug Auld
Loyalist College

Dan Patterson
Niagara College

Michael Hill
Northern College

*Members form the ACAATO Executive Committee

ACAATO Secretariat 2000

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Executive Director

Kathie Droy/Barb Millar, Lead
Governor & Presidents Services

Stuart Watson
Director, Communications

Pam Derks
Director, Research and Policy

Irveen Powley
Executive Assistant

Karen Richard/Jeff Tebbens
IT Co-ordinator

Gary Cronkwright
Director, CON*NECT

Cheryl Wrixon/Deb French
Co-ordinator/Business Development
Manager, CON*NECT

Karic Au
Accountant (part-time)

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Robert Gillett, President

Collège Boréal
Jean-Marie Blier, Chair
Gisèle Chrétien, President

Cambrian College
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Frank Marsh, President

Canadore College
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Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training

Since its establishment in 1994, the Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training (CON*NECT) has been committed to building strategic partnerships and alliances with business, industry and government. CON*NECT provides employers with a convenient, single point of access to the education and training resources of the 25 Ontario colleges.

During the past year, the momentum established by CON*NECT has continued to build, and with it the profile of the colleges as deliverers of quality, workplace training. New training revenue initiated by CON*NECT in 2000 totalled $2 million.

NEW TRAINING REVENUE INITIATED BY CON*NECT IN 2000 TOTALLED $2 MILLION.

Apprenticeship has been a particular focus this year. Since 1967 Ontario's colleges have played a significant role in the delivery of the classroom component of apprenticeship training in a variety of trade areas. The colleges will continue to be heavily involved as the government implements its plan to expand apprenticeship training as a strategy for addressing skills shortages and job creation. CON*NECT worked with several colleges to facilitate the submission of MTCU curriculum development proposals. These efforts culminated in contracts to lead colleges Cambrian, Canadore, Mohawk, and Niagara Colleges. Six other colleges will also participate.

CON*NECT was also instrumental in establishing Humber College as the site for the Symposium for Apprenticeship Advisory Committees held in November 2000. The conference, which may become an annual event, attracted 240 members of advisory and industry committees representing a wide variety of apprenticeable trades.

CON*NECT is working with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) to explore approaches for responding to the quickly changing needs of Ontario's high-growth industrial sectors. This MTCU-sponsored project is funded through a grant under MEDT's Prosperity Demonstration Fund. The CON*NECT grant was one of six awarded by MEDT. The emphasis is on identifying training needs in four industrial sectors: auto parts manufacturing, food wholesale and retail trade, transportation and information technology. Information on specific employee needs in these sectors will facilitate a closer match with college training programs and enable colleges to ensure increased access to just-in-time, job-specific training to enhance the global competitiveness of Ontario industry.

As part of its ongoing relationship-building with the Ontario government, CON*NECT has also marketed college services with the recently established Shared Services Bureau. This lobbying has had positive results again this year. To date, 11 colleges have been selected as vendors of record for delivery of a wide variety of generic skills training.

Among the many organizations CON*NECT contracts or partners with are:

- Automotive Parts Manufacturing Association
- Canadian Autoworkers Union
- Canadian Insurance Self-regulatory Organization
- Canadian Urban Institute
- Cummins Ontario
- Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario
- Management Board Secretariat
- Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills
- Ontario Aerospace Council
- Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists
- Ontario Community Newspapers Association
- Plant Engineering and Maintenance Association of Canada
- Shared Services Bureau
- Software Human Resources Council
- Teranet Land Information Services

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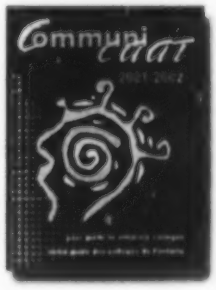
Ontario College Application Service

A year of change

The Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) became a non-profit subsidiary of ACAATO in 2000, undergoing a transition that built upon its strengths and refocused on its core business: to administer and improve the college application process; to act as an information warehouse for the colleges; and to support client services to colleges in the ROSS Consortium until the conclusion of the project.



A new management team, led by Executive Director Greg Hughes, was established, including a new Director of Information Services, Bill McKee and a new Finance Director, Jayne Nelson. The balance of the management team includes Application Processing Director Rosemary Stevens, Communications Director, Jeannine d'Entremont-Farrar and Human Resources Manager, Monique Azzoli.

Information technology services were consolidated under the Department of Information Services, and the Finance Department underwent some restructuring. The Communications Department took over responsibility for the Integrated Data Services function which includes statistical reporting, data collection and data warehousing.

OCAS will return to sound financial status in early 2001.

Application Processing Services

During the 1999-2000 application cycle, OCAS processed 151,555 applications and 96,727 acceptances to college.

It also assisted in providing a means, through the External Online Access (EOL) system, for colleges participating in the GATB test score data exchange to record test scores for applicants to the Police Foundations program.

The Online College Application, available for applicants not attending an Ontario secondary school, continues to attract more users. During the 1999-2000 application cycle 18,811 applicants used the online application, up from 12,827 during the previous application cycle. More than 31,000 applicants have applied in the 2000-2001 application cycle.

Services to applicants and guidance counsellors

- CommuniCAAT saw a number of improvements, including streamlining the area of study charts and index.
- New profiles of college graduates were added to the CareerPath web site, bringing the total to 115.
- OCAS and the Universities Application Centre (OUAC) worked together in 2000 to prepare for a pilot launch of their respective online applications for secondary school students in fall 2001.

Client Support Services

- OCAS provides support services to 15 colleges that use the ROSS financial and human resources information systems, in addition to providing primary support for Cognos products. In April 2000, a formula was established whereby the participating colleges agreed to share the cost of these services including the provision of software, hardware and support.

The 15 colleges also formed a consortium group, replacing the former Information Services Coordinating Committee. The consortium's executive committee endorsed a number of important agreements covering service levels, governance of the consortium and a contingency plan in the event of vendor failure.

System-wide data

In addition to producing the weekly College Counts Report, the Market Share Report and numerous ad hoc statistical reports, the Integrated Data Services team laid the groundwork for Project Mercury, the first phase of the Ontario Colleges' Data Warehouse.

Working with the CRALO Data Warehouse Working Group, new data elements were defined which would be useful for the colleges, particularly relating applicant grade data with program choices.

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Financial Statements

*The following is a summary of ACAATO's 2000 financial statements, which include the operations of the association, the secretariat and the Colleges of Ontario Network for Education & Training (CON*NECT). Detailed financial information is available at the ACAATO Office, Suite 1010, 655 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2K4.*

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2000, with comparative figures for 1999.

Assets	2000	1999
Current Assets	$1,908,459	$2,011,187
Capital Assets	42,080	52,377
Total Assets	1,950,539	2,063,564
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	914,038	809,193
Net assets	1,036,501	1,254,371
Total	1,950,539	2,063,564

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2000, with comparative figures for 1999.

Revenue	2,425,533	2,339,496
Expenses	2,643,403	2,328,573
Excess of revenue over expenses	(217,870)	10,923

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2000, with comparative figures for 1999.

Balance, beginning of year	1,254,371	1,243,448
Excess of revenue over expenses	(217,870)	10,923
Balance, end of year	1,036,501	1,254,371

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